

Message Text

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ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 MC-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 IGA-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 AID-20 GAC-01 ACDA-19 NEA-10

RSR-01 /151 W

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R 091435 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8204

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2781

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, LY, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN ARMS SALES TO LIBYA

REF: ROME 0566, JAN 24, 1973

1. AS FORECAST IN PARA 1. E., REFTEL, THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS REQUESTED OUR APPROVAL FOR THE SALE TO LIBYA OF AN ADDITIONAL 150 M-113 A1 APC'S. THE MINISTRY'S NOTE VERBALE ON THE SUBJECT READS AS FOLLOWS:

QTE. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS THE HONOR TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE FOLLOWING:

THE OTO MELARA COMPANY OF LA SPEZIA HAS FORUMULATED A REQUEST TO THE COMPETENT ITALIAN AUTHORITIES TO EXPORT TO LIBYA AND SELL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA A BLOC OF 150 M-113 A1 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS MANUFACTURED BY THE COMPANY UNDER UNITED STATES LICENSE.

SINCE THE ABOVE- MENTIONED TRANSACTION FALLS IN THE LARGER CONTEXT OF GOOD RELATIONS OF ECONOMIC COLLABORATION BETWEEN ITALY AND LIBYA AND IN VIEW ALSO OF THE INTEREST OF ASSURING MAINTENANCE OF THE PRESENT EMPLOYMENT LEVE IN THE ITALIAN COMPANY CONCERNED, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS FAVOR-
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ABLE TO THE CARRYING OUT OF THE ABOVE- MENTIONED COMMERCIAL OPERATION.

THUS THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IF IT WOULD TAKE MEASURES WITH THE COMPETED DECLARATION WILL BE SIGNED IN THE HAGUE FOLLOWING CEAUSESCU'S STATE VISIT (APRIL 10-13), AND ROMANIANS HAVE ASKED ITALIANS AND GERMANS TO SIGN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES DURING FORTH-COMING VISITS.

3. DECLARATION WITH SUDAN DIFFERS SLIGHTLY FROM OTHERS IN ADDITION OF TWO SUBJECTS. FIRST, IN DEFERENCE TO IMPORTANT SUDANESE CONCERNS, LENGTHY SECTIONS ON DECOLONIZATION (INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS) AND MID- EAST ADDED. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, STATEMENT ON MID- EAST IS STRONGER THAN USUAL ROMANIAN FORMULATION. ALTHOUGH BOTH SIDES ASSERT SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE BASED ON 1967 SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, USUAL ROMANIAN REFERENCE TO SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE " BY PEACEFUL MEANS" IS MISSING. BOTH DECLARATION AND COMMUNIQUE ADD THAT WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES IS " IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF THE INADMISSIBILITY OF THE ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY BY FORCE." HOWEVER, USUAL ROMANIAN FORMULATION ON " SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF EACH STATE IN THE REGION" (INTENDED TO COVER ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXISTENCE) IS PRESERVED.

4. SECOND SUBJECT ADDED TO DECLARATION IS STATEMENT ON NEED " FOR PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT AND DISARMAMENT, INCLUDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM TERRITORIES OF OTHER STATES, THE REMOVAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES AND THE DISSOLUTION OF MILITARY BLOCS." THIS FORMULATION-- USED BY ROMANIAN DELEGATION AT HELSINKI MPT TALKS AND ENUNCIATED BY CEAUSESCU DURING NOVEMBER 1972 PLENUM SPEECH-- PROBABLY INCORPORATED AT ROMANIAN REQUEST.

5. COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS NOTHING NEW OTHER THAN REFERENCE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT COMPANIES FOR PROSPECTING, EXPLORATION, AND EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL GAS AND PETROLEUM, AS WELL AS A JOINT COMPANY TO DEVELOP SUDANESE AGRICULTURE.
MEEKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME02781
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730437/aaaahybi.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 ROME 0566, JAN 24, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 17 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Sep-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <15-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971212
Subject: ITALIAN ARMS SALES TO LIBYA
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, IT, LY
To: PM
SECSTATE WASHDC
TRIPOLI
USCINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005